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# A TRIAL



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**审判**  
(短篇小说)

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Many a little make a mickie.



## 内容提要

正如帕德黑德·威尔逊的新历书所言：“让我们感谢那些傻瓜吧，要是没有他们，我们其他人就不可能成功。”埃德的成功应该感谢捉弄他的那些同伴们。他们让埃德送一封信给百万富翁范德比尔特船长，满以为这样会狠狠捉弄一下老实人埃德。但此举却给埃德带来了意想不到的财运。这是怎么一回事？

琴卡岛的恶棍诺克斯出于报复，枪杀了布莱克利船长最得意的大副。布莱克利将诺克斯捉起来要执行绞刑。而岛上其他船长坚持先审判后行刑，于是一场象模象样的审判开始了。诺克斯的命运会如何呢？

《给埃德带来财运的恶作剧》是一出愉快的轻喜剧，它揭示了生活的一个真理：某个偶然，或许就是转机。而《审判》就有点寓言的味道了，它所取笑的对象就是美国堂而皇之的法律，轻松幽默，寓意深刻。幽默、愉快，就是点滴英语的乐趣所在。

# 前 言

学习英语,尤其是学好英语不存在速成的捷径,只有勤奋刻苦,循序渐进,日积月累,博览精思,大胆实践,打下坚实的语言、知识基础才可能达到英语学习的理想境界。正所谓“锲而不舍,金石可镂;驽马十驾,功在不舍。”

众多成功者的实践和经验证明:初、中级的广大英语学习者,尤其是中、小学生甚或大学生在打基础的阶段,应该听、说、读、写齐头并进,小学生可侧重听、说,扎扎实实打好基础。读书,读书,最重要的还是读书。学习英语,使用英语的整个过程就是一个不断接触、认真模仿和反复练习的过程,业精于勤,功成于练,而首先是阅读实践(应包括朗读、默读、精读和泛读)。无论古今中外,阅读都是培养语感,养成用英语思维,用英语流畅表达思想的最有效的途径之一。阅读的过程就是记忆单词、扩大词汇量和学习词汇用法的过程。大量阅读也是有效促进和提高其他各项听、说、写、译技能的好方法,而简易读物尤其是英汉对照简易读物对提高阅读理解能力、打好语言基础、全面提高综合运用能力极为有效。为此我们推出了《小书虫简易英汉对照读物》系列丛书。本丛书是为中学生、大学生和广大初、中级英语爱好者、自学者精心策划的一套英文原版课外读物。

本丛书编排形式活泼新颖,文章短小精悍,图文并茂,英汉对照,既方便阅读又宜于携带。

本丛书选材广泛,纵横古今中外,品类齐全,丰富多彩,包罗世界文学名著、优美动人的童话、广为流传的名人轶事和人们所喜闻乐见的影视文(章)网(络)的精彩片段。坚持阅读既可开阔视野、陶冶心灵又可激励人生、奋勇向前。

本丛书的实用性极强,通过阅读增加词汇量,提高阅读理解能力,最重要的是可以受到纯正地道英语情境的熏陶,从而增强语感。

最后,在本丛书的成书过程中,许多中、外朋友都付出了大量的时间和辛勤的劳动。我们在此向他们表示由衷的感谢。

本丛书由司树森教授担任主编,熊德貌教授审订。

尽管我们在尽最大努力做好每一件事,但是不妥之处或错误仍在所难免。敬请广大读者不吝指教,以便修正。

司树森

2006年5月

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# The Joke that Made Ed's fortune

## 给埃德带来财运的恶作剧

(短篇小说)

主 编 司树森

副主编 刘靖新

审 订 熊德轶



## **The Joke that Made Ed's Fortune**

*Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.*

*—Pudd'nhead Wilson's New Calendar*

A few years before the outbreak of the Civil War it began to appear that Memphis, Tennessee, was going to be a great tobacco entrepôt—the wise could see the signs of it. At that time Memphis had a wharfboat, of course. There was a paved sloping wharf, for the accommodation<sup>①</sup> of freight<sup>②</sup>, but the steamers landed on the outside of the wharfboat, and all loading and unloading was done across it, between steamer and shore. A number of wharfboat clerks were needed, and part of the time, every day, they were very busy, and part of the time tediously<sup>③</sup> idle. They were boiling over with youth and spirits, and they had to make the intervals<sup>④</sup> of idleness endurable in some way; and as a rule, they did it by contriving<sup>⑤</sup> practical jokes and playing them upon each other.

The favorite butt for the jokes was Ed Jackson, because he played none himself, and was easy game for





## 给埃德带来财运的恶作剧

让我们感谢那些傻瓜吧，要是没有他们，我们其他人就不可能成功。

——《傻瓜威尔逊的新历书》



内战爆发的前几年，有迹象表明田纳西州的孟斐斯市将要成为一个巨大的烟草贸易中心——明眼人能够看出其中的迹象来。当然，那时候孟斐斯市已经有一座浮码头了。那是一座铺过的倾斜码头，用于吞吐货物，不过那些蒸汽轮船在浮码头外面靠岸，装卸货物时得穿过蒸汽轮船和河岸之间的一段距离，因此需要好些码头工人。有的时候，他们每天都很忙，而有的时候又很闲散无聊。他们洋溢着青春的活力，所以不得不想方设法打发那些无聊的间隔时间。一般来说，他们靠玩恶作剧彼此捉弄来达到这一目的。

大家最喜欢的恶作剧对象是埃德·杰克逊，他自己从不开玩笑，但却

### New Words

- ①accommodation [əˌkɒməˈdeɪʃən] *n.* 适应和解
- ②freight [freɪt] *n.* 货物, 运费
- ③tediously ['tiːdiəsli] *adv.* 沉闷地, 冗长气味地
- ④interval ['ɪntəvəl] *n.* 空隙
- ⑤contrive [kənˈtraɪv] *v.* 发明, 图谋, 创造



other people's—for he always believed whatever was told him.

One day he told the others his scheme for his holiday. He was not going fishing or hunting this time—no, he had thought out a better plan. Out of his forty dollars a month he had saved enough for his purpose, in an economical way, and he was going to have a look at New York.

It was a great and surprising idea. It meant travel—immense travel—in those days it meant seeing the world; it was the equivalent<sup>①</sup> of a voyage around it in ours. At first the other youths thought his mind was affected, but when they found that he was in earnest, the next thing to be thought of was, what sort of opportunity this venture might afford for a practical joke.

The young men studied over the matter, then held a secret consultation<sup>②</sup> and made a plan. The idea was, that one of the conspirators<sup>③</sup> should offer Ed a letter of introduction to Commodore Vanderbilt, and trick him into delivering it. It would be easy to do this. But what would Ed do when he got back to Memphis? That was a serious matter. He was good-heated, and had always taken the jokes patiently; but they had been jokes which did not humiliate<sup>④</sup> him, did not bring him to shame; whereas, this would be a cruel one in that way, and to play it was to meddle with fire; for with all his good





总是别人最合适的捉弄对象——因为他总是相信别人告诉他的任何事情。

有一天，他把自己的度假计划告诉大家。这一次他不打算去钓鱼或者打猎——不，他想出了一个更好的计划。他从每个月 40 美元的工资中积攒了足够的钱来实现他的这一计划，这是一种节省的方式，他要去纽约看看。

这是一个了不起的想法，它意味着要去旅行——非常好的旅行——在那个年代，意味着周游世界；相当于现在的环球旅行。起先，几个年轻人还以为他脑子有病，可是当他们发现他是认真的时，他们想的下一件事就是这次冒险能给他们的恶作剧创造什么机会。

伙计们仔细想了想，然后悄悄商量，制定了一项计划。他们的想法是，他们中间的某个同谋向商船队船长范德比尔特写一封介绍埃德的推荐信，骗他去送信。这事儿好办，可是当他回到孟斐斯市之后怎么办呢？这可是一件很棘手的事情。他心地善良，总是能够容忍人家开他的每一个玩笑，不过那些都不是侮辱他、给他带来耻辱的玩笑；而这则是个很歹毒的玩笑，开这样的玩笑就等于在玩火，因为尽管他

#### New Words

- ①equivalent [i'kwivələnt] *adj.*  
相等的，相当的
- ②consultation [ˌkɒnsəl'teɪʃən] *n.*  
会议，请教
- ③conspirator [kən'spɪrətə] *n.* 共  
谋者，阴谋者
- ④humiliate [hju:'mɪliet] *v.* 使丢  
脸，侮辱





nature, Ed was a Southerner—and the English of that was, that when he came back he would kill as many of the conspirators as he could before falling himself. However, the chances must be taken—it wouldn't do to waste such a joke as that.

So the letter was prepared with great care and elaboration. It was signed Alfred Fairchild, and was written in an easy and friendly spirit. It stated that the bearer was the bosom friend of the writer's son, and was of good parts and sterling<sup>①</sup> character, and it begged the Commodore to be kind to the young stranger for the writer's sake. It went on to say, "You may have forgotten me, in this long stretch of time, but you will easily call me back out of your boyhood memories when I remind you of how we robbed old Stevenson's orchard<sup>②</sup> that night; and how, while he was chasing down the road after us, we cut across the field and doubled back and sold his own apples to his own cook for a hatful of doughnuts<sup>③</sup>; and the time that we—" and so forth and so on, bringing in names of imaginary comrades, and detailing all sorts of wild and absurd and, of course, wholly imaginary school-boy pranks and adventures, but putting them into lively and telling shape.

With all gravity<sup>④</sup> Ed was asked if he would like to have a letter to Commodore Vanderbilt, the great millionaire. It was expected that the question would astonish



的脾气很好，但埃德是个南方人——说白了，他回来以后，那几个同谋，他能杀死几个就杀几个，然后再把自己砍倒。然而，机不可失——失去这样一次好机会，还真有些说不过去。

于是，他们精心准备了一封信，署名阿尔弗雷德·费尔柴尔德，语气轻松友好。信上说，送信人是写信人儿子的密友，很有才华，人品也不错。信中请求范德比尔特船长看在写信人的面上，好好接待这位年轻的陌生人。信里面还说：“已经很久了，你可能都想不起我了。不过要是我提醒你，有一天晚上我们抢了老斯蒂文森的果园，当他沿着大路追上来的时候，我们从地里抄近路折回去把他的苹果卖给他的厨师，换了满满一帽子炸面饼，那么你就能想起我是谁了。还有一次我们——”等等，列举出一些凭空想像的伙伴姓名，详细述说各种各样无法无天、荒诞不经的、当然是完全杜撰出来的小学生式的恶作剧和冒险行为，然而件件都讲得生动逗人，情趣盎然。

一位伙伴认真地问埃德是否愿意给范德比尔特船长——这位了不起的百万富翁带一封信。大家猜想这个问

#### New Words

- ①sterling ['stɜ:liŋ] *adj.* 极佳的，纯正的
- ②orchard ['ɔ:tʃəd] *n.* 果园，果树
- ③doughnut [dəʊnʌt] *n.* 油炸圈饼
- ④gravity ['grævəti] *n.* 重力，重点，严肃



Ed, and it did.

“What? Do you know that extraordinary man?”

“No; but my father does. They were schoolboys together. And if you like, I'll write and ask Father. I know he'll be glad to give it to you for my sake.”

Ed could not find words capable of expressing his thanks and delight. The three days passed, and the letter was put into his hands. He started on his trip, still pouring out his thanks while he shook good-by all around. And when he was out of sight his comrades let fly their laughter in a storm of happy satisfaction—and then quieted down, and were less happy, less satisfied. For the old doubts as to the wisdom of this deception began to intrude again.

Arrived in New York, Ed found his way to Commodore Vanderbilt's business quarters, and was ushered<sup>①</sup> into a large anteroom<sup>②</sup>, where a score of people were patiently awaiting their turn for a two-minute interview with the millionaire in his private office. A servant asked for Ed's card, and got the letter instead. Ed was sent for a moment later, and found Mr. Vanderbilt alone, with the letter—open—in his hand.

“Pray sit down, Mr. —er—”

“Jackson.”

“Ah—sit down, Mr. Jackson. By the opening sentences it seems to be a letter from an old friend. Allow me—I will run my eye through it. He says—he says—



题可能会让埃德大吃一惊,确实如此。

“什么?你认识那位非凡的人物?”

“不,不过我父亲认识,他们是同学。要是你愿意,我写信给他。我知道他会看在我的份上让你带信给船长。”

埃德无法表达他的感激和欣喜之情。3天过去了,信交到了他手里。他出发前向周围的弟兄们挥手告别时,还千恩万谢感激不尽。当他从视线中消失之后,他的朋友们迸发出一阵既欢快又满足的笑声——随后是一片寂静,不再像刚才那样欢快、满足,因为大家又很困惑,怀疑这个骗局能否成功。

到纽约以后,埃德找到了范德比尔特船长的办事处,他被带到一间很大的接待室,20来个人在那里耐心地等待着轮到他们在百万富翁的私人办公室里两分钟的会见。一个仆人要埃德出示名片,他把信交给他。一会儿,埃德被领了进去,他看见范德比尔特先生一个人,手里拿着那封信——信已经拆开了。

“请坐,哦——先生。”

“杰克逊。”

“哦——请坐,杰克逊先生。信开头,好像是一位老朋友的信。请允许我——大致看一下。他说——他

#### New Words

①usher ['ʌʃə] v. 护送,引进,招待

②anteroom ['æntirum] n. 接待室,休息室



why, who is it?" He turned the sheet and found the signature<sup>①</sup>. "Alfred Fairchild—h'm—Fairchild—I don't recall the name. But that is nothing—a thousand names have gone from me. He says—he says—h'm—h'm—oh, but that was a game! Oh, splendid! How it carries me back! It's all dim, of course—it's a long time ago—and the names—some of the names are wavery and indistinct<sup>②</sup>—but sho', I know it happened—I can feel it! And lord, how it warms my heart, and brings back my lost youth! Well, well, well, I've got to come back into this workaday world now—business presses and people are waiting—I'll give him my gratitude for what this letter has done for the tired spirit of a hard-worked man; and tell him there isn't anything that I can do for him or and friend of his that I won't do. And as for you, my lad, you are my guest; you can't stop at any hotel in New York. Sit where you are a little while, till I get through with these people, then we'll go home, I'll take care of you, my boy—make yourself easy as to that."

Ed stayed a week, and had an wonderful time—and never suspected that the Commodore's shrewd eyes were on him, and that he was daily being weighed and measured and analyzed<sup>③</sup> and tried and tested.

Yes, he had an immense time; and never wrote home, but saved it all up to tell when he should get back. Twice, with proper modesty and decency, he proposed to end his





说——他是谁?”他翻过信纸,看到署名,“艾尔弗雷德·费尔柴尔德——嗯——费尔柴尔德——想不起了,不过没关系——有上千个名字我都想不起来了。他说——他说——嗯——嗯——噢,可那只是一次游戏!噢,真——棒!这让我想起了往事!不清楚了——很久以前——这些名字——有些印象,记不清楚了——不过没错,有这么回事儿——我感受到了!天啊,这让我感到多温暖,回想起逝去的青春!好了,好了,好了,我得回到眼前的工作中来——生意等不了,大家在等我——感谢这封信为我疲倦的心灵带来慰藉,告诉他,只要能够为他或他的任何朋友做点什么,我都愿意。至于你,年轻人,你是我的客人。到了纽约,我可不能让你住饭店。在这里坐一会儿,等我接待完客人,就回家,我来照顾你,我的孩子——放心吧。”

埃德呆了一个星期,过得的确很开心——他从没疑心过船长精明的眼睛已经盯上他了,他每天都在被掂量着、权衡着、分析着、试验着、考验着。

是的,他很开心,从没给弟兄们写信,他想把经历积累起来,回去后再告诉他们。两次他虚心而得体地提出结

#### New Words

- ①signature ['signəʃə] *n.* 签名, 签字
- ②indistinct [ˌɪndɪ'stɪŋkt] *adj.* 模糊的
- ③analyze [ˈænəlaɪz] *v.* 分析, 分解, 解析

